Wing V 496

4. E 1033[illegible]

A VINDICATION OF The Arch-Biſhop And ſeveral other Biſhops, FROM THE IMPUTATIONS and CALUMNIES Caſt upon them By the Author of the Modeſt Enquiry.

WHereas in a late Pamphlet, Entituled, *A Modeſt Enquiry into the Cauſes of the preſent Diſaſters, &c.* We, whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed, are among others repreſented as the *Authors and Abetters of Englands miſeries*; and under the abuſive Names of *the Lambeth Holy Club, the holy Jacobite Club, and the Oeconomick Council of the whole Party*, are charged with a *Third Plot*, and with the compoſing of a *New Liturgy*, and uſing it in our *Cabals*; and whereas the *Clergy*, ſuch of them as are ſtyl'd *Male-contents*, are ſaid (together with others) to have *preſented a Memorial to the King of France*, to perſwade him to Invade *England*; and are alſo affirmed to have kept *a conſtant Correſpondence with Monſieur de Croiſſy* in order thereunto.

We do hereby ſolemnly, as in the preſence of God, Proteſt and Declare:

I. That theſe Accuſations caſt upon us are all of them malicious Calumnies, and diabolical Inventions; that we are innocent of them all; and we defie the Libeller (whoever he be) to produce, if he can, any legal Proof of our Guiltineſs therein.

II. That we know not who was the Author of the *New Liturgy*, as the Libel calls it; That we had no hand in it, either in *Club, Cabal*, or otherwiſe; nor was it compoſed, or publiſh'd, by Our Order, Conſent, or Privity, nor hath it been uſed at any time by Us, or any of Us.

III. That neither We, nor any of Us ever held any *Correſpondence*, directly or indirectly, with Monſieur *de Croiſſy*, or with any other Miniſter, or Agent, of *France*: And if any ſuch *Memorial* as the Libel mentions, was ever really preſented to the French King, we never knew any thing of it, or any thing relating thereto; And we do utterly renounce both That, and all other Invitations, ſuggeſted to be made by Us, in order to any Invaſion of this Kingdom by the *French*.

IV. That we utterly deny and disavow all *Plots* charged upon us as contrived, or carried on, in our Meetings at *Lambeth*; the intent thereof being to advise, how in our present Difficulties we might best *keep Consciences void of offence towards God, and towards Man.*

V. That we are so far from being the *Authors or Abbettors of* England's *Miseries*, (whatever the Spirit of Lying and Calumny may vent against us) that We do, and shall to our dying Hour, heartily, and incessantly pray for the Peace, Prosperity, and Glory of *England*; and shall always, by God's Grace, make it our daily Practise *to study to be quiet*, to bear our Cross patiently, and to seek the good of our Native Country.

Who the Author of this Libel is, we know not: But whoever he is, we desire, as our Lord hath taught us, to return him good for evil: He barbarously endeavours to raise in the whole English Nation such a Fury, as may end in *De Witting* us (a Bloudy word, but too well understood!) But we recommend him to the Divine Mercy, humbly beseeching God to forgive him.

We have all of us, not long since, either Actually, or in full Preparation of Mind, hazarded all we had in the World in opposing Popery, and Arbitrary Power in *England*; and we shall, by God's Grace, with greater Zeal again Sacrifice all we have, and our very Lives too, if God shall be pleased to call us thereto, to prevent Popery, and the Arbitrary Power of *France*, from coming upon us, and prevailing over us; The Persecution of our Protestant Brethren there being fresh in our Memories.

It is our great Unhappiness, That we have not opportunity to publish full and particular Answers to those many Libels, which are industriously spread against us: But we hope, that our Countrymen will never be moved to *hate us without a cause*; but will be so just, and charitable to us, as to believe this solemn Protestation of our Innocence.

W. Cant.
W. Norwich,
Fr. Ely,
Tho. Bath, and Wells,
Tho. Petriburg.

We are well assured of the Concurrence of our absent Brother the Bishop of Glocester, *as soon as the Copy can be transmitted to him.*

LONDON,
Printed for James Adamson, and Sold by *Randal Taylor*, 1690.